

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims pending: 1-8 and 36-58

Canceled or Withdrawn claims: Claims 9-35 were previously canceled

Amended claim(s): 1-7

5 **New claims:** 36-58

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings:

1. (Currently Amended) A pseudonymous email address

10 generator ~~for generating a pseudonymous email address associated with an email address, the generator comprising:~~

a request interface~~[],~~ ~~configured to~~ ~~[[for receiving]]~~ ~~receive~~ a pseudonymous email address generation request ~~[[from]]~~ ~~for~~ an ~~identity management system entity~~, the request containing website identification information ~~including at least an IP address associated with the entity in a pre-defined format~~; and

~~a processor for executing stored instructions to provide a computer-readable medium embodying computer-readable instructions that implement a pseudonymous email address creator [[for creating]] configured to:~~

20 ~~create~~ a pseudonymous email address associated with a mail server in response to the received pseudonymous email address generation request,

~~[[for associating]] associate~~ the pseudonymous email address with an email address,

[[for providing]] provide the created pseudonymous email address and its associated email address to the mail server associated with the pseudonymous email address,

5 [[for providing]] provide the created pseudonymous email address to the ~~identity management system entity~~; and

[[for storing]] store the website identification information with the associated pseudonymous email address to allow centralized analysis to ascertain whether the IP address is associated with a source of spam.

10 2. (Currently Amended) The generator of claim 1 [[including]]
 further comprising a mail server interface [[for]] configured to [[receiving]]
 receive from the pseudonymous email address creator both the pseudonymous
 email address and the email address associated with the pseudonymous email
 address, and [[for providing]] provide them to the mail server associated with the
15 pseudonymous email address ~~in a predetermined format.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The generator of claim 1 further
[[including]] comprising a request analysis engine [[for receiving]] configured to
 receive from the request interface an indication of [[the]] a destination of [[the]] a
20 requested alias, [[for determining]] and determine in accordance with the
 indication that the email address associated with the pseudonymous email address
 is a honeypot address.

4. (Currently Amended) The generator of claim 1 wherein the
25 pseudonymous email address creator [[includes]] further comprises:

means for defining properties of the pseudonymous email address, the properties selected from a list including a friendly name associated with the pseudonymous email address, a management link and corresponding attachment method, and the email address the pseudonymous email address is associated with;
5 and

means for providing the defined properties to [[the]] an associated mail server.

5. (Currently Amended) The generator of claim 1 further
10 [[including]] comprising a rules engine [[for defining]] configured to:

define a set of routing rules in accordance with requests received by the request interface,

[[for associating]] associate the defined set of rules with pseudonymous email addresses generated by the pseudonymous email address creator, and

15 [[for providing]] provide the created set of rules to the mail server associated with the pseudonymous email address.

6. (Currently Amended) The generator of claim 5 wherein the rules engine further [[includes]] comprises means for defining the routing rules in
20 accordance with a set of parameters defined in the pseudonymous email address generation request.

7. (Currently Amended) The generator of claim 5 wherein the rules engine further [[includes]] comprises means for defining the routing rules in
25 accordance with a set of default parameters.

8. (Original) The generator of claim 7 wherein the default parameters are dependent upon a requester identifier associated with the pseudonymous email address generation request.

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9. (Canceled)

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34. (Canceled)

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10 36. (New) A method comprising:

receiving a request for a pseudonymous e-mail address for an entity, the request containing at least an IP address associated with the entity;

responsive to receiving the request, creating a pseudonymous e-mail address;

15 associating the pseudonymous e-mail address with an e-mail address; causing communication of the pseudonymous e-mail address to the entity; storing the IP address with the associated pseudonymous e-mail address;

and

20 using the IP address to monitor requests for pseudonymous e-mail addresses to ascertain whether the IP address is associated with a source of spam.

37. (New) The method of claim 36 further comprising, responsive to ascertaining that the IP address is associated with a source of spam, modifying routing rules to direct e-mail to the pseudonymous e-mail address to discard.

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38. (New) The method of claim 36 further comprising, responsive to ascertaining that the IP address is associated with a source of spam, using the pseudonymous e-mail address as a honey pot e-mail address.

5 39. (New) The method of claim 36, further comprising receiving an indication that a pseudonymous e-mail address provided to a specified IP address has likely been provided to a harvesting entity.

10 40. (New) The method of claim 39, further comprising responsive to receiving the indication, modifying routing rules to direct e-mail to the pseudonymous e-mail address to discard.

15 41. (New) The method of claim 39 further comprising responsive to receiving the indication, using the pseudonymous e-mail address as a honey pot e-mail address.

42. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein receiving the request comprises receiving a request from an http server.

20 43. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein receiving the request comprises receiving a request from a server.

44. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein receiving the request comprises receiving a request from a user.

45. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the creating a pseudonymous e-mail address is performed automatically and without input from a user as to content of the pseudonymous e-mail address.

5 46. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the creating a pseudonymous e-mail address is performed automatically responsive to a click on a contact link.

10 47. (New) A tangible computer-readable medium having stored thereon, computer-executable instructions that, if executed by a computing device, cause the computing device to perform a method comprising:

receiving a request for a pseudonymous e-mail address for an entity, the request containing at least an IP address associated with the entity;

15 responsive to receiving the request, creating a pseudonymous e-mail address;

associating the pseudonymous e-mail address with an e-mail address;

causing communication of the pseudonymous e-mail address to the entity;

storing the IP address with the associated pseudonymous e-mail address;

and

20 using the IP address to monitor requests for pseudonymous e-mail addresses to ascertain whether the IP address is associated with a source of spam.

25 48. (New) The tangible computer-readable medium of claim 47 further comprising computer-executable instructions that, if executed by the computing device, cause the computing device to perform a method further comprising

responsive to ascertaining that the IP address is associated with a source of spam, modifying routing rules to direct e-mail to the pseudonymous e-mail address to discard.

5 49. (New) The tangible computer-readable medium of claim 47 further comprising computer-executable instructions that, if executed by the computing device, cause the computing device to perform a method further comprising, responsive to ascertaining that the IP address is associated with a source of spam, using the pseudonymous e-mail address as a honey pot e-mail address.

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50. (New) The tangible computer-readable medium of claim 47 further comprising computer-executable instructions that, if executed by the computing device, cause the computing device to perform a method further comprising receiving an indication that a pseudonymous e-mail address provided to a
15 specified IP address has likely been provided to a harvesting entity.

51. (New) The tangible computer-readable medium of claim 50 further comprising computer-executable instructions that, if executed by the computing device, cause the computing device to perform a method further comprising
20 responsive to receiving the indication, modifying routing rules to direct e-mail to the pseudonymous e-mail address to discard.

52. (New) The tangible computer-readable medium of claim 50 further comprising computer-executable instructions that, if executed by the computing
25 device, cause the computing device to perform a method further comprising

responsive to receiving the indication, using the pseudonymous e-mail address as a honey pot e-mail address.

53. (New) The tangible computer-readable medium of claim 47,
5 wherein receiving the request comprises receiving a request from an http server.

54. (New) The tangible computer-readable medium of claim 47,
wherein receiving the request comprises receiving a request from a server.

10 55. (New) The tangible computer-readable medium of claim 47,
wherein receiving the request comprises receiving a request from a user.

15 56. (New) The tangible computer-readable medium of claim 47,
wherein the creating a pseudonymous e-mail address is performed automatically
and without input from a user as to content of the pseudonymous e-mail address.

57. (New) The tangible computer-readable medium of claim 47,
wherein the creating a pseudonymous e-mail address is performed automatically
responsive to a click on a contact link.

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58. (New) A system comprising:

means for receiving a request for a pseudonymous e-mail address for an entity, the request containing at least an IP address associated with the entity;

25 means for responsive to receiving the request, creating a pseudonymous e-mail address;

means for associating the pseudonymous e-mail address with an e-mail address;

means for causing communication of the pseudonymous e-mail address to the entity;

5 means for storing the IP address with the associated pseudonymous e-mail address; and

means for using the IP address to monitor requests for pseudonymous e-mail addresses to ascertain whether the IP address is associated with a source of spam.